



#3 2176

PATENT
B422-149

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hirokazu Uchio, et. al.
Serial No. : 09/852,578
For : INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS FOR
MANAGEMENT OF DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO
PATENT APPLICATION
Filed : May 10, 2001
Examiner : Not assigned
Art Unit : 2176

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 1, line 21, and ending at page 1, line 23, as follows:

-- Furthermore, a retrieval system, publication of various information, etc., have been widely performed through the Internet. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 6, line 8, and ending at page 6, line 16, as follows:

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-- Furthermore, the information processing apparatus according to the present invention manages a document related to technical information, and includes: determination means for determining a restriction of a law relating to transmission of the technical information overseas; and control means for controlling transmission of the document overseas depending on a determination result by said determination means. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 11, line 22, and ending at page 12, line 6, as follows:

-- The document server 116 includes a document DB (database) for management of a file wrapper, etc., containing the electronically generated documents, a series of documents generated in the communications between server 116 and Patent Office. The management server 117 contains bibliographic information such as an application number, a patent number, a filing date, a registration date, etc., and a management DB for management of the term of the office action of Patent Office. The server 118 contains a general purpose DB storing a specific publication of Japanese Patent Office, U.S. Patent Office, etc., and related information. The server 119 configures an application system for management of a work flow described later, and other databases (for example, a database of cited documents). The server 120 integrally manages the document servers 116 to 119, and controls the entire intellectual property information management system. In the embodiment described below, a 'system' refers to a system managed by the server 120. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 12, line 20, and ending at page 13, line 4, as follows:

-- Documents stored in the document server 116 can be normal text documents, drawings stored as normal image information, mixed mode documents containing both text and images, documents in the format unique to a word processor, etc. The electronic documents used in the communications with Patent Office and in-house documents are stored in a document database of the document server 116 by the application system of the server 119. Normally, the document database is assigned a number identifying the document, and linked to the management database of bibliographic items in the management server 117. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 14, line 21, and ending at page 14, line 27, as follows:

-- Reference numeral 111 denotes a plurality of external companies that cooperatively perform research and development with the enterprise group 110. They manage the products of the cooperative research and development based on the mutual contract, and acquire a patent right. The system can transmit and receive data through Internet. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 18, line 24, and ending at page 18, line 27, as follows: